## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In Re: April Larson, BKY 18-31280

Debtor. Chapter 7

### APPLICATION TO REOPEN CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

To: Patti J. Sullivan, Chapter 7 Trustee, the U.S. Trustee, and the other entities specified in Local Rule 5010-1:

### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. April Larson applies for the relief requested below.
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a) and 1334, Bankruptcy Rule 5010 and Local Rule 5010-1. This is a core proceeding.
- 3. Larson filed for relief under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code on April 25, 2018 and received a discharge on August 6, 2018. The case was closed on August 21, 2018.
- 4. Larson moves this Court for an Order reopening her case under 11 U.S.C. § 350(b) so that she can amend Schedule A/B and Schedule C.

### UNKNOWN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY

- 5. Larson and her husband wed on March 31, 2016.
- 6. Prior to their marriage, Larson's husband was the sole fee simple owner of his homestead, located at 22180 Berring Ave, Farmington, MN 55024 and legally described as "Lot 19, Block 3, Countryside Estates, situated in Dakota County, Minnesota," subject to a mortgage held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC.
- 7. Larson began living with her husband at this property upon their marriage. It became their exclusive home.

- 8. On August 29, 2016, Larson's husband refinanced the Carrington mortgage encumbering their home with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.
- 9. While the mortgage and note remained in Larson's husband's name after the refinance, Larson's husband added Larson to the title of the home, exclusively to simplify transfer of the property to Larson in the event of his death.
- 10. Larson did not know that she had acquired an interest in the property through the refinance. At the time of the refinance and the time of her subsequent bankruptcy filing, Larson did not understand herself to have any present ownership interest in the property, and believed her husband to be its sole legal owner.
- 11. Due to personal difficulties in their relationship, Larson moved out of her home with her husband in January 2018 and began staying with her parents. These were her living circumstances at the time of her bankruptcy filing.
- 12. When filing bankruptcy, Larson believed the home to be titled exclusively in her husband's name. Because he had owned the property prior to their marriage, she did not believe she even had a marital interest to list as an asset.
- 13. She seeks to correct this error with this motion.

#### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

14. April Larson moves this Court for an Order reopening her Chapter 7 case for the purpose of amending Schedule A/B and Schedule C to include her half interest in her joint homestead occupied by her husband and located at 22180 Berring Ave, Farmington, MN 55024.

- 15. Due to the amount of equity in the home, Larson will amend Schedule C to use the Minnesota property exemptions. This will result in payment of non-exempt funds to the trustee.
- 16. UNLESS A RESPONSE OPPOSING THIS MOTION IS TIMELY FILED, THE COURT MAY GRANT THE MOTION WITHOUT A HEARING.

Dated: 9/21/18

WALKER & WALKER LAW OFFICES, PLLC

Bennett Hartz (393136)
WALKER & WALKER LAW OFFICES, PLLC
4356 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-4357

Attorneys for April Larson

## VERIFICATION

I, April Larson, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on: 9/21/18

April Larson

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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In Re: April Larson, BKY 18-31280

Debtor. Chapter 7

## MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION TO REOPEN CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY

#### **FACTS**

April Larson filed her chapter 7 Petition, Schedules, and Statement of Financial Affairs pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §301, on April 25, 2018. The court ordered a discharge order on August 6, 2018 and the case was closed on August 21, 2018.

Larson inadvertently did not list an interest in real property on her bankruptcy schedules. She believed this property belonged exclusively to her husband, who owned the property prior to their marriage and was its sole occupant at the time of her bankruptcy filing. After they wed, however, Larson's husband refinanced the mortgage encumbering the property. He instructed Larson to sign paperwork during the refinance, which she mistakenly believed made her the heir to the property should he die. In fact, he had transferred her a half interest in this real property to her, which she owned at the time of her bankruptcy filing.

#### **ARGUMENT**

Larson seeks a Court Order reopening her chapter 7 bankruptcy pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §350(b), Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 5010 and Local Rule 5010-1, to allow her to amend Schedules A/B and C.

11 U.S.C.§ 350(b) allows the court to reopen a case to "administer assets." *In re Marshall*, 211 B.R. 662, 663 (Bankr.D.Minn 1997). A motion to reopen a bankruptcy case

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should be granted only where there is a compelling reason. *In re Johnson*, 500 B.R. 594. 597 (Bankr.D.Minn. 2013)(Citing *In re Borer*, 73 B.R. 29, 31 (Bankr.N.D.Ohio 1987). In this case the compelling reason to reopen the bankruptcy is to allow for the correction of ownership in the real property described above, which will both clarify title to the property in question and result in payment of non-exempt assets to Larson's bankruptcy estate, which will benefit both the creditors and Larson.

## **CONCLUSION**

Larson respectfully applies for a Court Order reopening her chapter 7 Bankruptcy, No. 18-31280.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: September 21, 2018 WALKER & WALKER LAW OFFICES, PLLC

/s/ Bennett Hartz

Andrew C. Walker (392525) Bennett Hartz (393136) 4356 Nicollet Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55409 (612) 824-4357

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In Re: April Larson,	BKY 18-31280
Debtor.	Chapter 7
ORDER REOPENING CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY	

An application by the debtor for an Order reopening their Chapter 7 bankruptcy case has been filed and shows cause for such reopening under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 5010 and 11 U.S.C. 350(b).

## IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. The case is reopened;
- 2. The United States Trustee may serve as trustee if authorized, or shall appoint a trustee if appropriate;
- 3. The clerk shall serve this order on the applicant.

Date:	
	Judge Michael E. Ridgway

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In Re:	April Larson,	BKY 18-	-31280

Debtor. Chapter 7

## UNSWORN CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Bennett Hartz, declare under the penalty of perjury that on September 21, 2018, I mailed copies of the foregoing Application To Reopen Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, by first class mail postage prepaid to each entity named below at the address stated below for each entity:

United States Trustee 1015 U.S. Courthouse 300 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street Minneapolis, MN 55415

Patti J. Sullivan, Trustee 1595 Selby Avenue, Suite 205 St. Paul, MN 55104

Creditors on the attached list

DATED: September 21, 2018 /s/ Bennett Hartz

Case No: 18-31280 Debtor(s): April Lynn Larson

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